

David B. Chaffin

Partner

Managing Partner, Boston, MA Office

Boston, MA

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Clients rely on David's more than 35 years of complex litigation experience, including extensive first-chair trial and arbitration experience.

OVERVIEW

David Chaffin has over 35 years of complex litigation experience, including extensive first-chair trial and arbitration experience. He has represented major pharmaceutical, national defense, insurance, financial services, telecommunications, high technology, and retail companies in real estate, intellectual property, coverage, employment, corporate governance/control, environmental, qui tam, and contract/business-tort matters.

Prior to joining White and Williams, David was a name partner in a litigation boutique firm in Boston. He began his career with Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York City.

RECOGNITION AND INVOLVEMENT

David has been AV[®] Preeminent[™] rated by the Martindale-Hubbell peer review rating system and was selected in a survey of his peers as a Massachusetts "Super Lawyer" by Super Lawyers from 2009-2020, 2023 & 2024, and named among *The Best Lawyers in America*[®] since 2021 for Commercial Litigation; Insurance Law and Litigation-Insurance.

David is a member of the board of Friends of Carlisle Scouting.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

White and Williams Obtains Summary Judgment for BAE Systems in Employment Dispute in Massachusetts Federal Court
12.23.21

PRACTICES

Commercial Litigation

Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith

Intellectual Property

Appellate

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Massachusetts

New York

U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

U.S. District Court for the District of
Massachusetts

U.S. District Court for the Northern District
of New York

U.S. District Court for the Southern District
of New York

EDUCATION

Duke University School of Law, JD, 1983

Amherst College, BA, 1979, *cum laude*

White and Williams Obtains Injunction for Massachusetts Coalition of Police in Contract Dispute with I.U.P.A
12.5.19

Massachusetts Appeals Court Reverses Judgment that Condominium Unit Easement Was Illegally Blocked
7.30.19

Massachusetts Court Affirms Judgment in Long-Running Shareholder Dispute
3.27.19

White and Williams Involved in Dismissal of Massachusetts False Claims Act Case
8.7.18

Massachusetts Appeals Court Affirms Dismissal of Zoning Complaint
8.3.18

White and Williams Secures Dismissal in Shareholder Derivative Case
7.3.18

White and Williams Secures Dismissal of Zoning Appeal
11.8.17

White and Williams Prevails in Trial of Counterclaims in Long-Running Shareholder Dispute
6.15.17

White and Williams Secures Affirmance of Judgment in Shareholder Dispute
8.20.15

False Claims Act/Wrongful Termination Case Successfully Concluded
8.18.15

Successfully defended defense contractor against False Claims Act claims involving allegations of fraud on the U.S. Army and wrongful termination claims, securing dismissal of all claims

Obtained favorable global settlement in multi-site, multi-state environmental coverage matter, following multiple trials and complex appellate proceedings

Secured favorable settlements in recent environmental matters involving CGL and "garage" policies

Obtained dismissal of all claims against defendants in shareholder dispute and affirmance of dismissal on appeal following 25-day jury trial; thereafter tried counterclaims to a jury, securing one of the largest judgments in MA in 2017

Obtained, on behalf of developer client, dismissal of challenge under Boston zoning code to \$35 million mixed-use project

Secured favorable settlement for insurer client in coverage dispute arising out of large Lanham Act judgment against insured

Obtained, before a single deposition, settlement of over \$1.2 million for minority shareholder whose stake in close corporation had been improperly diluted in connection with a merger

Obtained dismissal of core claims against defense contractor in dispute arising out of NSF-funded research and development contract, followed by extremely favorable settlement

Representing insurers in multiple environmental coverage matters

Prevailed on appeal in action for deferred compensation by former CEO of defendant client

Secured a multi-million dollar settlement for an international defense contractor following the trial of a complex real estate dispute

Obtained an arbitration award of over \$1 million for a telecommunications company in a dispute involving expense and tax assessments under a commercial lease, which led to a settlement valued at nearly \$20 million of similar claims as to other lease years

Obtained summary judgment for a large home improvement retailer in a trade secret matter involving tens of millions of dollars in alleged damages, and acted as lead appellate counsel in the case in the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, which affirmed based on a decision by Justice Souter, who was sitting by designation

Obtained summary judgment for a large home improvement retailer in a fraud/breach of contract/mini-FTC Act matter

Represented several pharmaceutical firms in product liability and other matters, including actions involving claims of fraudulent off-label promotion

IN THE NEWS

Best Lawyers® Recognizes 40 White and Williams Lawyers
8.21.25

Best Lawyers® Recognizes 49 White and Williams Attorneys
8.15.24

Congratulations 2024 DE, MA, MD, NJ, NY, and PA Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
6.6.24

Best Lawyers® Recognizes 45 White and Williams Lawyers
Firm News, 8.18.23

Congratulations to all of our 2023 Attorneys Named as Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
5.25.23

Best Lawyers® Recognizes 40 White And Williams Lawyers
Firm News, 8.18.22

Congratulations 2022 DE, MA, NJ, NY and PA Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
7.13.22

White and Williams Obtains Preliminary Injunction in Constitutional Challenge to Massachusetts Police Recertification Procedures
6.30.22

White and Williams Lawyers Recognized as Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
11.1.21

Best Lawyers® Recognizes 38 White and Williams Lawyers
8.19.21

PUBLICATIONS

The False Claims Acts and The Public Policy Exception: A Match Not Made in Heaven
Massachusetts Law Review, 4.29.23